



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1103

January Session, 2015



AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) For the school year
2 commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year thereafter, the
3 Commissioner of Education shall establish and administer a school
4 districts of innovation program for any local or regional board of
5 education that develops creative approaches to addressing issues and
6 challenges related to the provision of education in the public schools,
7 including, but not limited to, improving school climate and reducing
8 school bullying. Under such program, the State Board of Education
9 may waive any provision of title 10 of the general statutes, or
10 regulations adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to said
11 title, except that the State Board of Education shall not waive any
12 provision of sections 10-14n, 10-15, 10-16, 10-16b, 10-153a to 10-153t,
13 inclusive, and 10-221a of the general statutes or any requirement of
14 federal law.

15 (b) (1) A local or regional board of education may submit an
16 application for participating in the program at such time and in such
17 manner as the commissioner prescribes. Such application shall include,
18 but need not be limited to, (A) a plan that provides a description of the
19 proposed approach to be taken by such local or regional board of
20 education to address a specific issue or challenge, (B) the proposed

21 outcome of such approach, (C) methods for assessing the impact of
 22 participating in the program, (D) any community partners that will be
 23 involved in the implementation of such approach, and (E) the specific
 24 statutory or regulatory provisions that such board is seeking
 25 permission to be waived.

26 (2) The commissioner shall review each application for participation
 27 in the program and may recommend approval of the plan proposed by
 28 a local or regional board of education to the State Board of Education.
 29 The State Board of Education may approve such plan and waive the
 30 appropriate statutory or regulatory requirements. Such waiver shall be
 31 valid for three years and may be renewed by the State Board of
 32 Education upon a demonstration of success by the local or regional
 33 board of education.

34 (c) Any local or regional board of education participating in such
 35 program shall partner with a public institution of higher education to
 36 implement the plan and analyze such implementation. Such public
 37 institution of higher education shall provide instruction in best
 38 practices and research-based methodology to assist such local or
 39 regional board of education in the implementation of such plan.

40 (d) Any local or regional board of education participating in the
 41 program shall (1) submit to the Department of Education (A) annual
 42 progress reports relating to the implementation of such plan; and (B) a
 43 final report relating to the results of such plan at the conclusion of
 44 participation in the program or prior to an application for renewal of
 45 the waiver, (2) share such results with other local or regional boards of
 46 education, and (3) if such plan is successful, provide instruction and
 47 training to other local and regional boards of education on such plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), text at the end of the second sentence was moved to the first sentence for clarity.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*